



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 31 Years of Leadership & Advocacy



MEMBERS

Janet A. Neal
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Richard Krzyzanowski
Vice Chair

Kecia Weller
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Mary Chambers
Viola Vivian Corbett
Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.
Michael G. Gureckas
Harley Rubenstein
Bernard Siegel
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Wendy Welt
Sheila D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 374, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Neal at 1:09 p.m. Introduction of Commissioners, Staff and audience members followed.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2006 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Weller, and duly carried, the minutes for the meeting of September 20, 2006 were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Osbee I. Sangster – distributed copies of correspondence relating to her appeal case with the State Department of Rehabilitation, and expressed her dissatisfaction with various governmental entities she feels do not provide adequate representation to people with disabilities.

Linda Block – expressed her support of California Proposition 187, which is legislation that would deny individuals with illegal status the right to health, welfare and educational benefits; encouraged everyone to sign a petition to have Proposition 187 placed back on the State's ballot; and shared information on various other initiatives relating to residents with illegal status.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Policy regarding items that require action/approval by the Commission as a Whole

Commissioners were reminded that it is Commission policy that any issues which may affect the Commission as a whole must be presented to the full Commission for review and approval prior to any Commissioner arbitrarily making a decision, commitment or taking a position on said issue on behalf of the Commission. Commissioners were urged to adhere to this policy.

Fundraising efforts for 2007 Access Awards Luncheon

Chair Neal presented a proposal to the Commission where she would be allowed to take the lead responsibility in the fundraising efforts for next year's Access Awards Luncheon. The Commission allocates \$5000 from its Trust Fund to elicit the services of a fundraiser. In the past, some of the hired fundraisers have fallen short in their efforts and were not able to even raise a large enough sum to cover luncheon expenses. Consequently, Chair Neal feels that the \$5000 could be put to better use towards offsetting necessary luncheon costs such as printing, postage, awards purchases, and catering expenses.

Discussion ensued on this matter, and it was the consensus of the Commission that the option of hiring a fundraiser should not be totally eliminated, even though sponsorships and donation levels have declined over the last two years. In the past, the Commission has been fortunate to hire some fundraisers who were very good and the Commission benefited from their efforts. It was felt that should the Commission find the right person for the job, fundraising efforts could be very successful, particularly if the Commission begins recruitment for a fundraiser earlier in the year, thus allowing the fundraiser more time to solicit sponsorships.

Commissioners agreed that it was admirable of Chair Neal to volunteer to handle next year's fundraising efforts, however, they did not want Chair Neal to be overwhelmed with this challenging task and thought it would more appropriate for a paid professional to take care of the fundraising, if the Commission is able to find one. Commissioners decided to form an Access Awards Committee group so that everyone could share in the decisions and responsibilities of preparing for next year's luncheon, rather than burden one person with the task. This item

was held over to the next agenda for further discussion.

Commission Liaison Reporting

Commissioners were advised that they are required to disclose to the Commission if they serve on any other Commissions, Boards, or Committees outside of the Commission on Disabilities. In addition, Commissioners were reminded that unless they have been appointed by the Commission as its liaison or representative to another public body, they are considered a member of the public and are to refrain from taking any position or speaking on behalf of the Commission without prior approval by the full Commission.

Lobbyist Information

Chair Neal announced that petitions, brochures, flyers, notices, etc. requesting support/opposition on issues that are brought in by a member of the public should be placed on the information table for people to review and not circulated or handed out to Commissioners or audience members at Commission meetings. Materials placed on the table are for informational purposes only, and are not necessarily supported or opposed by the Commission.

In addition, audience members were advised that if they are seeking the Commission's support on specific issues, or would like an item placed on the Commission's agenda for consideration, that they should, 1) contact staff and request that the item(s) be placed on the Commission's agenda; and 2) all items are pre-approved by the Chair of the Commission before being agendaized.

Audience members were also advised that if they wanted to conduct lobbying activities that they should register with the County as an official lobbyist.

STAFF REPORT

Treasurer Weller gave an overview on the Commission's Trust Fund status following the 2006 Access Awards event.

**PRESENTATION TO DEPUTIES JEROME HOLMES &
ERNEST DUNTON, L. A. CITY, DISABLED PARKING ENFORCEMENT
UNIT**

Chair Neal presented Deputies Jerome Holmes and Ernest Dunton, City of Los Angeles, Disabled Parking Enforcement Unit, with Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding dedication to enforcing disability related parking regulations.

DISABILITIES CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE SECTION (DCRCS)

Kurt C Hagen, Deputy Compliance Officer for the Disabilities Civil Rights Compliance Section, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance reported the following:

- The Disabilities Civil Rights Compliance Section (DCRCS) is currently undergoing a re-organization.
- He is currently serving as the Interim ADA Coordinator until another person can be found to fill that position.
- Gordon Anthony, Senior Deputy, has now returned from medical leave and will be working part time as a consultant for the department.
- The Department has completed its FY 2005-2006 ADA compliance reviews of programs and physical access to County departments.

Mr. Hagen introduced Cecile Ochoa, the new Senior Deputy for DCRCS and the Employment Mediation Section, who reported that she has been working very closely with Mr. Hagen and Mr. Anthony on the County's Strategic goals relating to ADA Compliance/Title I and II. Ms. Ochoa stated that she was very pleased the Office of Affirmative Action Compliance in collaboration with other statewide organizations rolled out a *Best Practice Model* on providing reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities. The model is based on the interactive Best Practice Guidelines of the County of Los Angeles. Ms. Ochoa added that Dennis Tafoya, Director of the Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, stated that his department will continue to support the Commission's activities and fulfillment of its mission and goals.

A copy of the Best Practice Model will be provided to the Commission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations & Update on Community Forum Radio Program

Public Relations Report

None

Community Forum Radio Program

Chair Neal reported that the Community Forum Radio Program continues to do well and gain popularity with its listeners. On today's show, she addressed some of the items on the Commission's meeting agenda such as H.R. 2199 - Steve Grissom Relief Fund Act.

Executive Committee Report

None.

Transportation Committee

Update on Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Parking Enforcement Detail

Chair Neal announced that representatives from the County Sheriff's Department would be giving a presentation at the December meeting on a program within the Department that allows citizens, upon completion of a training course, to issue citations to motorists for disabled parking violations. Chair Neal has also learned of a potential program to be administered by the County and the City of Los Angeles that will employ members from the Disability Community to issue disabled parking citations.

United Spinal Association – (Taxis For All – North America)

Chair Neal reported that she was notified by Mr. Terrance J. Moakley, Director of Special Projects for the United Spinal Association, that the Association has a "Taxis For All - North America Project" which would make available to disabled riders accessible Crown Victoria Sedans and Limousines.

ASI Report

None.

City of Los Angeles, City Ride Program

None

MTA Update

Chip Hazen reported that the issue with bicycles and motorcycles obstructing the accessible walk ways at the North Hollywood station has finally been resolved with the assistance of signs, street painting, and the intercession of the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Hazen also reported the following about other MTA Projects:

- The East Los Angeles Project (Extension of the Gold Line) that will run from Union Station to Atlantic Boulevard is undergoing construction and is targeted for completion sometime in 2009.
- Plans are underway to begin construction on the Exposition Line, which will run along Flower Street down to Exposition Blvd. and Jefferson Blvd.
- During construction of its many projects, MTA will ensure patrons with disabilities have safe access to areas around construction sites by adding special signage and talking signals to accommodate the blind.
- The MTA has also initiated the Automated Vehicle Enunciator System on bus lines which announces the street names/stops along the bus route. 2700 Buses in the MTA fleet have the devices.
- This year 4,500 bus drivers were given customer service training and extensive ADA training to better service the community.

H.R. 2199 – Steve Grissom Relief fund Act of 2005

Following review of HR 2199, **on motion of Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner Weller and unanimously carried, the Commission voted to support H.R. 2199 – Steve Grissom Relief Fund Act and will convey their support to the Board of Supervisors.**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger – Veto Key Messages

Following review and discussion, **on motion of Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner Chambers, and duly carried, Commissioners voted to send a letter to the Governor and the Board of Supervisors expressing opposition to the Governor's veto of SB 1660, AB 2489; AB 2494; AB 2486; SB 1435; and AB 3048. The motion passed by the following vote:**

Ayes:	Commissioners Weller, Chambers, Troost, Wright, and Chair Neal;
Noes:	Commissioner Gurekas
Abstention:	Commissioner Siegel

ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA TO BE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

(Commissioner Rubenstein joined the meeting)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Commissioner Weller, seconded by Commissioner Teran, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 2: 20 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Janet A. Neal, Chair
Mary Chambers
Michael Gureckas
Bernard Siegel
Ernest Hamilton
Harley D. Rubenstein
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Kecia Weller, Treasurer
Sheila Wright

Excused Absence

Richard Krzyzanowski,
Vice Chair

Unexcused Absence

Viola Vivian Corbett
Wendy Welt

Board of Supervisors

Dedie Ward, Staff
Martha Arana, Staff

County of Los Angeles

Kurt C. Hagen, OACC
Cecile Ochoa, OACC

MTA

Chip Hazen

Guests

Osbee I. Sangster
Deputy Ernest Dunton, Los Angeles City, Parking Enforcement Unit
Deputy Jerome Holmes, Los Angeles City, Parking Enforcement Unit
Sergeant Sheila Cruz, Los Angeles City, Parking Enforcement Unit
Steve Thompson, California State Department of Rehabilitation
Roxy Ortiz, East Los Angeles Rehabilitation Center
Marvin White, Office of Consumer Affairs
Dr. Dennis W. O'Brien, Los Angeles County Client Coalition
Linda Block